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planned scores of times already, only to end dismally when put to the test, and there seems to be no new success-assuring element in this one.

Overpopulation may become some day an evil in Germany so grave that it will require stern measures to combat it; but it is quite possible that when this time comes the solution will be found neither in the legalization of abortion, nor in the formation of rural societies for productive coöperation.

WILLIAM B. BAILEY.

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Société de Statistique de Paris. La Société de Statistique. Notes sur Paris. A l'occasion du Cinquantenaire de la Société et de la XIIe session de l'Institut international de Statistique. (Nancy: Imprimerie Berger-Levrault et Cie, 1909).

This memorial volume was published to serve a double purpose; for the meeting of the Institut international de Statistique and the fiftieth anniversary of the Société de Statistique de Paris were celebrated at the same time in Paris. As was natural the occasion was taken to review the history of statistics in France. The first fifty pages of the volume are devoted to a study by Fernand Faure of *Les Précurseurs*. In this section mention is made of those who have written upon the use and method of statistics, but not of those who have simply used statistics in their writings. M. Faure covers the period from the latter part of the sixteenth to the middle of the nineteenth century. This chapter should be read by any one who is interested in the history of statistics, for it contains a fund of information. M. Faure traces the beginning of the study of statistics in France to the interest which was felt by many in the political institutions of Greece and Rome, and the possible desire to revive the Roman censuses. Then, too, at that time, there was much disorder in the finances of the empire, and the search was made for the means to reduce them to order. The author is careful to see that France gets her proper share of the credit for this pioneer work. It is perhaps true that in too many cases Germany is credited with the development of political arithmetic, and England with that of the application of the theory of probabilities to vital statistics.

A short review of the history of the Society and some of its most

prominent members is given by M. Lucien March. After a short introduction by A. de Foville the bulk of the volume follows. This is composed of a series of short articles upon the varied interests of Paris. In them is given a clear picture of the Paris of today. In no other way can an idea of their varied nature be given than by noting the titles to the chapters. The names of their authors bear witness to the skill with which they are prepared. Climate, topographie, ethnographie, by M. Chervin; La population, by Jacques Bertillon; Les étrangers à Paris, by Michel Huber; La physionomie de Paris et les monuments, by Gustave Schelle; Les maisons, by Albert Fontaine; Les promenades parisiennes, by Paul Meuriot; Les environs de Paris, by Paul Matrat; Le sous-sol parisien, by Octave Keller; Les eaux et l'éclairage, by Gaston Cadoux; Les moyens de transport, by A. Barriol; L'automobilisme, by M. F. Hennequin; Le port de Paris, by Yves Guyot; Abattoires et marchés, by E. Fléchet; La consommation du tabac, by M. Malzac; La petite industrie, by Ch.-M. Limousin; La Bourse, by Alfred Neymarck; L'or et l'argent, by M. A. de Foville; L'épargne et la prévoyance populaire, by A. Delatour; L'assistance publique, by E. Cheysson; "L'administration et la police," by E. Desroys du Roure; Les tribunaux, by Maurice Yvernès; L'enseignement, by E. Levasseur; Les établissements scientifiques, by E. Levasseur; Musées et expositions, by Eugène d'Eichthal; L'art décoratif, by Arthur Fontaine; La mode by Raphaël-Georges Lévy; Théâtres et concerts, M. G. Payelle.

This volume will never outlive its usefulness, for it gives a definite picture of the capital at the opening of the twentieth century, and must always serve as a good basis for future comparisons. The Society is to be congratulated upon the manner in which it memorialized the completion of a half century of usefulness.

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The Proportion of the Sexes produced by Whites and Colored Peoples in Cuba. By WALKER HEAPE. (Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. Series B, Vol. 200. Pp. 271-330.)

The figures upon which this study is based cover the years 1904-05-06. Fortunately these statistics are published monthly